Tarpon Springs High School Veterinary Science Academy
Program Guide

Career Focus: Preparation for employment as a Veterinary Assistant

Target Population: Program is offered to interested students in grades 9-12

Academic Requirements: All students must maintain a 2.0 semester grade point average.

College: Through an articulation program with Saint Petersburg College – Vet Tech Program, some of the Veterinary Academy Courses may be eligible for transfer credit.

Program Overview: The TSHS Veterinary Science Program is a 4-year program that provides students with an opportunity to prepare for a career in the Veterinary Science industry. The course work includes – concept mastery, emphasis on medical terminology, practical skill application, volunteer hours, demonstrations and clinical laboratory experiments.

Florida Academic Standards: Each course within the program is aligned to the Florida State Student Performance Standards. After successfully completing this program, the student will be able to perform the following:

01.0	Describe veterinary science and the role of animals in society.
02.0	Describe the socioeconomic role of veterinary sciences on the companion animal livestock industries.
03.0	Discuss the human-animal bond and its effects on human health.
04.0	Demonstrate the proper use of veterinary science terminology.
05.0	Identify careers in the animal industry.
06.0	Practice safety.
07.0	Recognize normal and abnormal animal behaviors.
08.0	Restrain and control companion and livestock animals.
09.0	Identify common breeds of companion animals and husbandry practices
10.0	Demonstrate human-relations, communications and leadership through FFA activities.
11.0	Demonstrate basic first aid for companion and livestock animals.
12.0	Demonstrate the use of tools, equipment, and instruments in the veterinary science and companion animal industry
13.0	Demonstrate proper techniques in taking vital signs.
14.0	Investigate the common breeds and husbandry practices for several species of animals
15.0	Identify parts and functions of various systems of common companion and livestock animals.
16.0	Explain the various methods of animal identification.
17.0	Demonstrate knowledge of animal control and animal welfare organizations.
18.0	Describe the problems, causes, and solutions of animal overpopulation.
19.0	Locate and interpret animal-related laws, in state statutes, or local ordinances
20.0	Identify the different digestive systems of animals and the nutritional requirements of selected species.
21.0	Explain the reproductive system and breeding of common companion and livestock animals.

22.0   Investigate the common husbandry practices and daily care of companion animals and exotic animals and fish.
23.0   Demonstrate knowledge of preventive medicine and disease control.
24.0   Demonstrate human-relations, communications, leadership and employability skills.
25.0   Differentiate between animal welfare and animal rights.
26.0   Explain the role of animals in research.
27.0   Maintain and analyze records.
28.0   Explain proper sanitation for animal facilities
29.0   Explain diagnostic testing and use of equipment
30.0   Describe internal and external parasites and control methods.
31.0   Groom selected companion and livestock animals.
32.0   Describe exotic animals and the effects of captivity on them.
33.0   Assess techniques used in surgical assisting and surgical preparation.
34.0   Explain principles of pharmacology
35.0   Explain proper methods of syringe and hypodermic needle use.

Sample: 4 – Year Veterinary Program Course Progression and Descriptions

- 9th grade –   Veterinary Assisting 1
                College and Career Computing
- 10th grade -   Veterinary Assisting 2
                Microsoft Certification Course
- 11th grade -   Veterinary Assisting 3
                Veterinary Assisting 4
- 12th grade -   Veterinary Assisting 5
                Advanced Concepts of Agriscience
                Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources Education Directed Study

Course Descriptions:

Veterinary Assisting 1 (1 credit) The course is designed to develop competencies in the areas such as: history of the animal industry; applied scientific and technological concepts; safety; terminology; careers; breed identification; animal care and human relations skills. Course will include 18 hours of lab and enrichment activities on campus.

Veterinary Assisting 2 (1 credit) This course is designed to develop competencies in the areas such as basic first aid; scientific and technological tools and equipment; breed identification; and basic functions of systems. Course will also include 18 hours of lab and enrichment activities on campus.

Veterinary Assisting 3 (1 credit) This course is designed to develop competencies in the areas of animal digestive systems; animal breeding; animal control; animal overpopulation; animal related laws; and breeds. Course will also include 18 hours of lab and enrichment activities on campus.

Veterinary Assisting 4 (1 credit) This course is designed to develop competencies in the areas of animal welfare and rights; research; record keeping; disease and parasites. Course will also include 18 hours of lab and enrichment activities on campus.

Veterinary Assisting 5 (1 credit) This course is designed to develop competencies in the areas of grooming, effects of captivity of exotics; genetics and biotechnology in reproduction; diagnostic and therapeutic testing; surgical preparation; and pharmacology. Course will also include 18 hours of lab and enrichment activities on campus.

<u>Volunteer Hours</u>: Each student will be required to log 250 volunteer hours in a Veterinary clinic setting under the supervision of a Veterinarian or Certified Veterinary Technician. Hours are accruable over the 4-year program, including summers

<u>Competency Skills Checklist</u>: Each student will be required to complete and present a competency skills checklist to their instructor each year as they progress through the program. Completion and verification of the skills are a pre-requisite for certification.

<u>Certifications</u>:

      Veterinary Assistant

      Level 1 Microsoft

      Animal First Aid and Pet CPR

<u>Employment Opportunities</u>:

      Veterinary Assistant

      Kennel Technician

      Veterinary Clinic Receptionist

      Lab Animal Technician

<u>Post-Secondary Education Options</u>:

      Veterinary School - applicant

      Certified Veterinary Technician Program

<u>Suggested Academy Dress Code</u>:

      Surgical Scrubs – optional

      Veterinary Academy T-shirt

      TSHS Modified Student Dress Code

<u>Suggested Academy Supplies</u>: Provided by each instructor during the first week of school

<u>TSHS Veterinary Science Academy Student Expectations</u>:

- Attend school each day.
- Arrive on time.
- Be prepared with proper materials and supplies.
- Keep a planner, agenda or calendar to maintain awareness of upcoming assignments.
- Complete & submit all assignments on a timely basis, including homework to the best of your ability.
- Dress appropriately.
- Be tolerant and respectful to self and others (in school, out of school, and on social networks – Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, any online posts should be courteous and respectful).
- See teachers about make up work, if absent from school.
- Contact guidance counselor for any conflicts or concerns.
- Set goals for success.
- Get enough sleep each night & eat a balanced breakfast to start the day.
- Set responsible working hours outside of school.
- Maintain a 2.0 unweighted, semester G.P. A.
- Begin volunteer process for earning hours required for certification.
- Keep updated volunteer hours log and journal.

<u>Assistance and support</u>:

- Teacher
- Guidance Counselor
- School resource officer
- Administrator
- Parent or Guardian

<u>Interventions</u>:

Failing to meet academic or behavior performance expectations may/will result in:

(1) semester (18 weeks) probation
(2) Development of an Academic Improvement Plan
(3) Parent/Teacher/Program Administrator conference